

ONLY FOR THE DESTITUTE SICK

THE  
NATIONAL  
Jewish Hospital

FOR  
CONSUMPTIVES

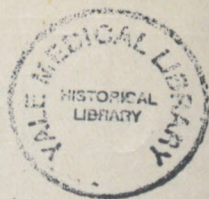
The Gift of the Jewish People of the  
Nation to its Helpless Poor

AT DENVER

ITS EQUIPMENTS  
ITS METHODS  
ITS RESULTS

EVERYTHING WITHIN ITS WALLS FREE TO THE PATIENTS

BY  
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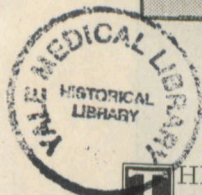


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THE GUGGENHEIM PAVILION.



## History of Inception and Establishment.

**T**HE National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives emphasizes a departure from the usual methods of private sanatoria and hospitals. It was erected and is maintained for the poor, irrespective of their creed; for those only, of whatever nationality or faith, who have not the means to procure in other institutions the care and treatment their condition requires.

Many consumptives come to Denver annually in the belief that in its climate they may be restored to health. A great number are sent here by charity organizations, "kind friends," or physicians, often to be rid of a burdensome charge; they come here often penniless and hopeless, or in advanced stages when recovery or benefit is absolutely impossible. With what one may term cruel kindness, many have been sent here to subsist on pure-air diet, and, as a sole nutriment, even Colorado air is hardly sufficient. Of those who came in this condition and under these circumstances, many were of the Jewish faith. The little that could be done for them by the handful of Jewish people in Denver was unavailing, so that a number of afflicted with a chance of recovery or improvement succumbed to the disease for want of care, for want of the very necessities of life, dying without the help or touch of a loving hand.

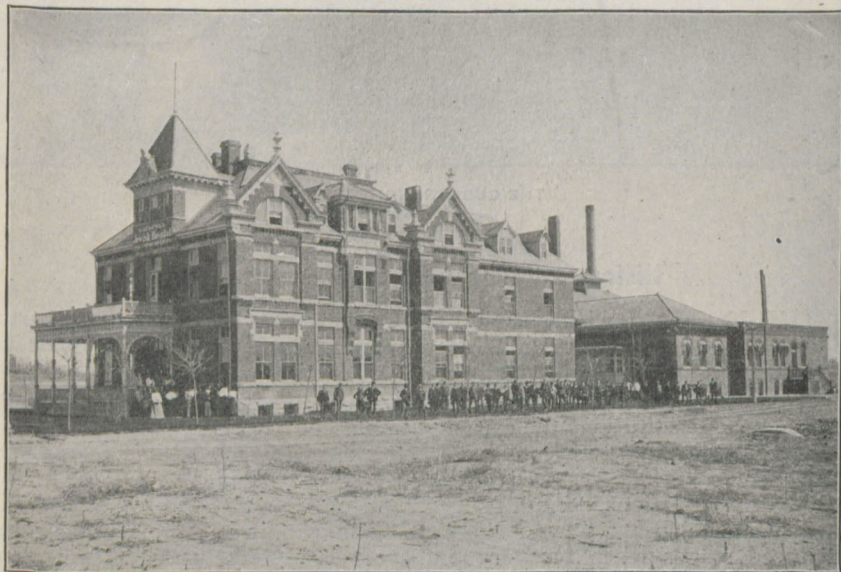
It was this condition that gave to the Jewish citizens of Denver the idea that in Denver should be a free institution for indigent sufferers. It required many years of unselfish labor to gain the first partial success. The men and women of Denver bore the brunt of the work. The first building, costing, with the lots, over \$45,000.00, was erected entirely by money subscribed by them. To maintain such an institution unaided, proved, however, an impossibility. The building was completed in 1892, when we were on the verge of a panic whose influence was already being felt in



Colorado. To obtain money then from the citizens of Denver for this maintenance was out of the question; also to secure the means from other sources equally distant, although every effort was made.

At last the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith—the great national Jewish philanthropic and fraternal organization—came to the rescue. Through its influence the Order was able to secure men of national reputation to aid in this cause. After the Order had started the work properly, it gave back to the institution its independence, deeming this best for the accomplishment of the broadest charity.

The hospital is, as its name implies, a national institution, having a national board of trustees, consisting of thirty-five members; and a local board of managers in direct charge of the institution. An auxiliary board consists of one or more directors in almost every city of the United States, representing the affairs of the hospital in the residence of such director.



THE MAIN BUILDING.

#### PURPOSES AND METHOD OF THE INSTITUTION.

Starting on December 10, 1899, with thirty-five patients, the institution now cares for ninety at all times. The length of stay is from six months to one year, depending entirely upon the improvement possible for the patient. It is the intention to receive and treat *only those for whom there is a reasonable chance for recovery*, or sufficient improvement to enable the patient, upon his discharge, to become self-supporting. It is the conviction of those in charge of the institution that *each city should care for its own incurables*, and that the City of Denver and the State of Colorado ought not to be burdened with a great number of incurable cases who can only be a menace to the community without possible chance of benefit to themselves.



The hospital is an educational force. Much of its effort is expended for the purpose of disseminating knowledge of the needs and methods of sanitary living of those afflicted with this disease. Each patient who leaves the institution becomes personally an exponent of this necessity and of the mode of carrying it out.

These men and women come from all parts of the country; they come here sick, dependant and hopeless; a large percentage leave here strong, self-dependant, and able to maintain themselves and care for their families. Of these patients at least sixty-five per cent. are again returned to the world in the fullness of health and strength, or at least so far improved and recovered as to be able each to pursue his own path in life and follow some proper vocation, one that will not again subject him to the possibility of relapse, and one that will enable him to properly maintain himself and family.



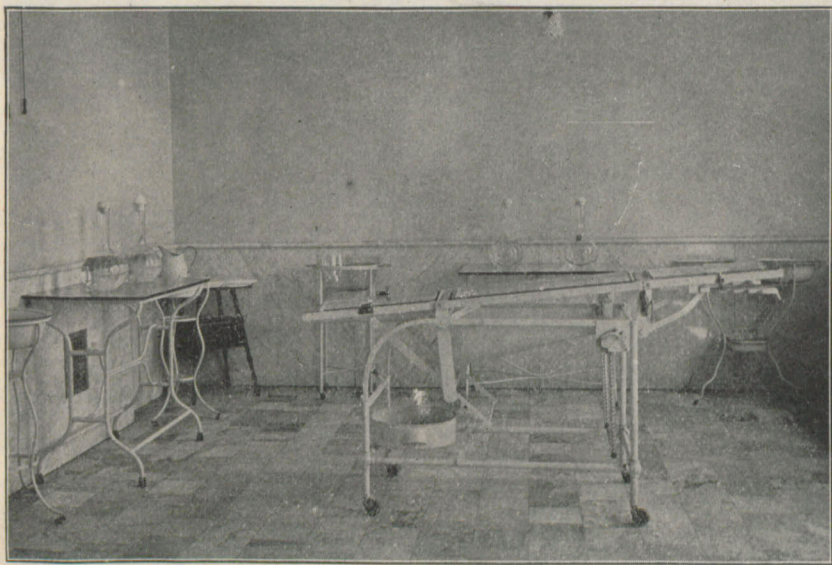
THE RESIDENT CORPS.

Twenty-seven physicians and surgeons give their services gratuitously, and are in constant attendance. In addition to that, of course, we have a medical superintendent, internes, matron, staff of nurses, orderlies, etc. There is absolutely no charge to the patient. No patient who is able to pay can be admitted. It is exclusively for the indigent. For the guidance of the medical profession, in justice to the patient, as well as for the protection of the institution and the City of Denver, certain rules regulating the admission of patients had to be made, and are strictly enforced. It can readily be seen that if, through this and like institutions, a great number of indigent consumptives, especially in incurable stages, were brought to Colorado, and thrown upon local charity, the State, in self-protection, would soon close its doors to this "white scourge." It is imperative, therefore, that those inter-



ested should know the rules under which a patient may be admitted. While it may seem somewhat of a red tape and circuitous proceeding, it, after all, does not take more than a week from the first step to the admission of the patient, providing there is room within the institution. If the patient cannot safely wait that length of time, or even several weeks, it may be readily prognosed that his coming to Colorado is useless, his case hopeless. If there were ever any doubt as to the advisability of the course pursued by this hospital, its experience has amply demonstrated the wisdom of the procedure.

Application for admission must be made from the city in which the applicant resides, on prescribed forms. The applicant must be examined by the physician appointed by the hospital authorities at the place where he resides, and on blanks provided for that purpose. No other form of medical examination will be accepted, nor any made by other than the regularly appointed physician. The patient's character must be investigated



THE OPERATING ROOM.

and endorsed by the local trustee. Each application must be accompanied by a guaranty, approved also by the local trustee or director, that the patient shall not become a charge upon the community after he leaves the hospital, and that in case his return may be advisable at any time, his transportation will be furnished. *No applicant should be sent to Denver, or allowed to come, until he has received official notice of his admission. Anyone coming to Denver in violation of these rules will find the doors of the hospital closed against him for all time.* Upon arrival the patient will be re-examined; if the earlier examination is found incorrect, or the answers of the applicant untrue, he may be returned at once. The family of the applicant must not be sent to Denver during the patient's stay at the hospital. Since patients must be constantly in the open air, even during

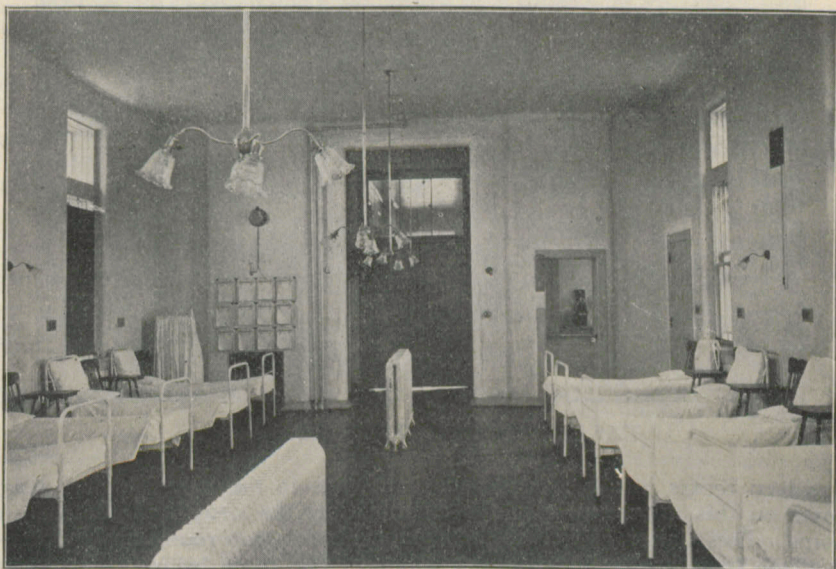


the coldest weather, too much stress cannot be laid upon proper provisions for warm clothing.

#### DESCRIPTION OF PRESENT PLANT.

The institution consists of several buildings intended to be conducted on the pavilion plan. It must be remembered that all our income is derived through voluntary subscriptions only. Our buildings are of the most simple construction. We do not believe in expending large sums of money for appearances' sake, but all that is essential is of the best. Nothing that modern science can suggest has been overlooked.

The plant of this institution consists of four buildings. The original building contains the offices, reception rooms, operating and sterilizing room, drug room, infirmary ward, and nurses' kitchen on the main floor. On the second floor of this building are the women's quarters, where female patients only are housed and cared for. It contains smaller rooms and larger wards. On the third floor of this building are the rooms for the internes, matron, nurses, orderlies and some of the other employes of the institution. It now accommodates forty patients, of which twelve male patients are in



OBSERVATION WARD IN MAIN BUILDING.

the infirmary ward on the first floor, and twenty-eight female patients on the second floor.

There is another two-story building for fifty patients, called the "Guggenheim Pavilion," built and equipped by the M. Guggenheim Sons of New York, in memory of their mother. It was opened on January 25, 1903, and is for male patients only. The main floor of this pavilion contains sixteen rooms in all, of which eight are sleeping apartments for patients. The most important of the rooms on this floor is that devoted to the examination, diagnosis and treatment of nose and throat troubles. It is finely equipped with the latest scientific appliances.



The examination room, where patients are examined on entering the hospital and re-examined from time to time, the drug room and the dispensary, are also on this floor. The latter apartment is not only for the dispensing of medicine, but also for the taking of the temperatures of patients at stated times by the attending nurses. A lavatory and bath room adjoin the eight sleeping apartments on the main floor. The bath room is supplied with shower and needle baths, and facilities for tub bathing.

On the extreme upper end of the floor is the locker room with twenty-five separate compartments, each patient having a locker. These are so arranged that they can be disinfected, either separately or together.

The eastern and southern sides of the building, accessible from the sleeping apartments, and the large halls of the main floor, make a superb sun room where patients can remain during inclement weather.

An inclined plane, rising gradually and easily mounted without tiring the patients, takes the place of the stairway to the second floor, containing



TAKING TEMPERATURE AT 6 A. M.

seventeen rooms in all. A spacious hall leads to the nine sleeping apartments on this floor, and also the examination, the drug and the waiting rooms. These latter, as well as the lavatory, bath, wash rooms and lockers—of which there are twenty-six—are equipped like those below. The superintendent's quarters are on this floor.

Taken as a whole, the equipment of the pavilion is hygienically complete, thoroughly artistic and thoroughly modern.

In the center of the group is the dining-room building. This building contains the dining room for patients, staff dining room, kitchen and pantries, cold storage, dining room for the help, laundry; also rooms for all those employed in that building, such as cooks, waiters, kitchen help and the like. It also contains, in an addition, the boiler rooms. All buildings now in existence or hereafter to be erected, are and will be heated from this central building.

The buildings for the patients have proper sun rooms and other quarters in which they can stay during inclement weather. Excepting under



inclement conditions, patients are presumed to be out of doors at all times. Strict attention is paid to compliance with this requirement.

The hospital owns about one square and a half of ground. To give the patients outdoor amusement there are provided croquet games, lawn tennis and other amusements; also open tent school rooms, where the better educated patients give instructions in rudimentary branches, especially English, reading and writing, to those in need of such instruction.

In the rear of the laundry, and immediately in the rear of the plant, is the sterilizing building, which contains a "Troy Sterilizer," and in which all laundry of the patients, as well as all bedding and clothing, in fact, everything, is periodically disinfected. No washing is given to the laundry until it has first been disinfected in this building.

#### RESULTS SO FAR ACCOMPLISHED.

For the purpose of this article we have tabulated the work of the institution to the present time, showing the condition of the patients when received, the condition of the patients on discharge, and their condition at the present time, so far as we have been able to follow it.

For the last two years a system has been introduced by which a patient, upon leaving the institution, is furnished with printed postal cards on which are certain questions which he is supposed to answer at stated periods. A few who leave fail to comply, and we lose track of them. We have lately tried, through the charity organizations of the different cities where the patients had resided, to trace these latter, and we shall soon be able to give the condition of many of those whose whereabouts and history are described as unknown in the following statistics:

#### Record from Dec. 10, 1899, to May 1, 1905.

|   |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Total number of cases admitted from Dec. 10, 1899, to May 1, 1905.....736 |  |  |  |  |  | First stage cases..... 382                  |  |  |
| Non-tubercular..... 14  |  |  |  |  |  | Cases in second stage..... 165              |  |  |
| Left within 60 days of arrival.....102                                    |  |  |  |  |  | Cases in third stage..... 114               |  |  |
| Still in hospital May 1, 1905..... 75                                     |  |  |  |  |  | 661   |  |  |
| Total of above three items.....191  |  |  |  |  |  | In hospital..... 75                         |  |  |
| Left hospital after 60 days.....507                                       |  |  |  |  |  | Total number of cases treated               |  |  |
| Died in hospital..... 38  |  |  |  |  |  | from Dec. 10, 1899, to May 1, 1905..... 736 |  |  |
| Total of above two items.....545  |  |  |  |  |  | 736   |  |  |

| Condition on Entering the Hospital | First Stage Cases |           |            | Cases in Second Stage |           |            | Cases in Third Stage |           |            | Present Condition                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|----------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                    | Improved          | Recovered | Unimproved | Improved              | Recovered | Unimproved | Improved             | Recovered | Unimproved |                                     |
| 58                                 | 37                | 1         | 48         | ..                    | 2         | 6          | ..                   | ..        | ..         | Remained in Denver. Well.           |
| 25                                 | 12                | ..        | 15         | ..                    | ..        | 5          | ..                   | ..        | ..         | Remained in West. Well.             |
| 72                                 | 56                | 2         | 38         | ..                    | 2         | 2          | ..                   | ..        | ..         | Returned home. Well.                |
| 2                                  | ..                | ..        | 4          | ..                    | 11        | 4          | ..                   | ..        | ..         | Unsatisfactory condition in Denver. |
| ..                                 | ..                | 3         | 1          | ..                    | 2         | ..         | ..                   | 3         | ..         | Unsatisfactory condition in West.   |
| 7                                  | ..                | 2         | 6          | ..                    | 8         | 3          | ..                   | 12        | ..         | Unsatisfactory condition at home.   |
| ..                                 | ..                | 2         | 18         | ..                    | 4         | 5          | ..                   | 32        | ..         | Died in Denver.                     |
| ..                                 | ..                | 1         | 1          | ..                    | 1         | ..         | ..                   | 4         | ..         | Died in West.                       |
| 3                                  | ..                | ..        | 2          | ..                    | 3         | ..         | ..                   | 23        | ..         | Died at home.                       |
| 29                                 | 3                 | 17        | 7          | ..                    | 5         | 3          | ..                   | 15        | ..         | Whereabouts and history unknown.    |



An undue proportion of deaths occurred in the institution during the first year of its existence, which was due to the fact that, having room, we accepted in the hospital a large number of patients who were in the last stages of the disease in the City of Denver, having no shelter or home and no one to care for them. We thought it would not be misuse of our means, since we had room, to allow these poor sufferers to die in peace and with all the care possible around them. A few of those who have left the hospital in good condition, and greatly improved, will be noted by the above statistics, to have changed for the worse since their discharge. This is due, in a great majority of those cases, to the fact that those patients left the institution before they were advised to leave; in fact, against the most earnest protest of those in charge. Some of them felt their returning strength, and were anxious to again earn a livelihood for themselves and their families. Others received letters from their families at home in which they learned that their



THE KITCHEN.

loved ones in their far-distant home were suffering want, and they felt impelled to return and try to better these conditions. Others, again, notwithstanding the attending physician's advice to remain in Colorado, after discharge, returned to their homes under the same conditions that caused the disease in the first instance, and succumbed. A great number, however, who have been discharged from the hospital, have been able to return to their homes, as shown by the tabulated statistics, and are doing well. There are, however, very few really incipient cases received in this hospital. The class of patients which this hospital cares for do not have the opportunity to discover incipient consumption; even if they should, they have not the means to give way to it. Otherwise our results would be better still.

Those marked "non-tubercular" on the above list were sent to us here by physicians of the East as affected by tuberculosis, but, after entering the institution, were found, upon examination, not to be affected by this disease.



A new Woman's Pavilion is now assured. During the year 1905, contributions ranging from \$1 to \$1,000 poured in upon us, and made a total sufficient to warrant us in the immediate construction of the much-needed pavilion. During the coming year, 1906, the National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives will therefore be in a position to completely segregate and separate its male and female patients. Capacity will also be increased, and the helpfulness of this great Jewish charity will have been enlarged to appreciably meet the growing demand upon it.

#### IMMEDIATE NEEDS.

The institution expects to enlarge its capacity. First of all, however, it is desired to better conditions for the care of those now in our charge.

There ought also to be erected a separate building within which to house the resident medical staff, nurses, matron and others. Their present quarters are on the third floor of the building, as above described, a building in which, among other things, is contained the sleeping quarters for patients.

Should fortune be kind to us, it perhaps might be also possible to erect a bacteriological laboratory building, one in which proper bacteriological research and investigation can be made. The room for this is at present located in the original building. An X-ray machine, with proper rooms and facilities, adjoining this laboratory building, should also be added.

Subscriptions are now being received to cover these imperative needs, and it will not be long before the institution will not alone be the only one of its kind, but the best equipped in the world.

The idea should be that, when it comes to shelter, to hospital, and to medical attendance of our poor, nothing can be too good.

While the institution is entirely under Jewish management, and supported entirely by Jewish people, it is absolutely non-sectarian as to patients; it makes no distinction as to creed. The only requirements are, that the patient be poor and in a curable stage of the disease, and that he comes in compliance with the rules of the hospital. For its maintenance the hospital relies wholly upon the voluntary subscriptions made to it by the Jewish people of the entire country.

It can readily be understood that the nature of the treatment of these patients, among which is forced feeding—consequently the best food—makes this institution expensive in operation, and it is necessary at this time, with ninety patients under our charge, to raise from \$35,000 to \$40,000 each year from and through voluntary subscriptions. There is absolutely no endowment. This fact is a most serious drawback. It leaves the hospital subject at all times to financial conditions and commercial depressions.

The purpose of the institution is to achieve the highest ideal of charity, to place these unfortunates in a condition that will enable them to help themselves; to help those who have, without fault of their own, become disabled by this modern scourge, to take their part again in the world's struggles, to make them again self-supporting, self-dependent. The hundreds who have left the institution, proud of their ability and their right to be again the breadwinners for their families, ought to be a source of satisfaction to all who have labored in this cause. They may not hear words of appreciation from those who have been within its walls, but, surely, there must re-echo in their hearts the joyful laughter rising from homes made happy by loved ones reunited.



At its inception no one could have imagined the place that this hospital was to occupy in the field of charity. The greatest idealist, in whose waking dreams the care of these unfortunates was uppermost, had no conception of the results that could be achieved. The National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives stands to-day a monument to American Judaism, that knows no creed; a monument to Twentieth Century philanthropy; a monument of deeds.

